NUMB. CLVIX.

The SPECTATOR.

—— Nos hæc novimus esse nihil. Martial.

Friday, August 31. 1711.

OUT of a firm Regard to Impartiality I print these Letters, let them make for me or not.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

I Have observed through the whole Course of your Rhapsodies, (as you once very well called them) you are very industrious to overthrow all that many your Superiours who have gone before you have made their Rule of writing. I am now between fifty and sixty, and had the Honour to be well with the first Men of Taste and Gallantry in the joyous Reign of *Charles* the Second: We then had, I humbly presume, as good Understandings among us as any now can pretend to. As for you your self, Mr. SPECTATOR, you seem with the utmost Arrogance to undermine the very Fundamentals upon which we conducted our selves. It is monstrous to set up for a Man of Wit, and yet deny that Honour in a Woman is any thing else but Peevishness, that Inclination is not the best Rule of Life, or Virtue and Vice any thing else but Health and Disease. We had no more to do but to put a Lady in good Humour, and all we could wish followed of Course. Then again, your *Tully*, and your Discourses of another Life, are the very Bane of Mirth and good Humour. Prethee don't value thy self on thy Reason at that exorbitant Rate, and the Dignity of humane Nature; take my Word for it, a Setting-dog has as good Reason as any Man in *England*. Had you (as by your Diurnals one would think you do) set up for being in vogue in Town, you should have fallen in with the Bent of Passion and Appetite; your Songs had then been in every pretty Mouth in *England*, and your little Distichs had been the Maxims of the Fair and the Witty to walk by: But alass, Sir, what can you hope for from entertaining People with what must needs make them like themselves worse than they did before they read you? Had you made it your Business to describe *Corinna* charming, though inconstant; to find something in humane Nature it self to make *Zoilus* excuse himself for being fond of her; and to make every Man in good Commerce with his own Reflections, you had done something worthy our Applause; but indeed, Sir, we shall not commend you for disapproving us. I have a great deal more to say to you, but I shall sum it up all in this one Remark, In short, Sir, you do not write like a Gentleman.

I am,

Sir,

Your most humble Servant.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

THE otherDay we were several of us at a Tea-Table, and according to Custom and your own Advice had the *Spectator* read among us: It was that Paper wherein you are pleased to treat with great Freedom that Character which you call a Woman's Man. We gave up all the Kinds you have mentioned, except those who, you say, are our constant Visitants. I was upon the Occasion commissioned by the Company to write to you, and tell you, That we shall not part with the Men we have at present, till the Men of Sense think fit to relieve them, and give us their Company in their Stead. You cannot imagine but that we love to hear Reason and good Sense better than the Ribaldry we are at present entertained with; but we must have Company, and among us very inconsiderable is better than none at all. We are made for the Cements of Society, and came into the World to create Relations among Mankind; and Solitude is an unnatural Being to us. If the Men of good Understanding would forget a little of their Severity, they would find their Account in it; and their Wisdom would have a Pleasure in it, to which they are now Strangers. It is natural among us, when Men have a true Relish of our Company and our Value, to say every thing with a better Grace; and there is without designing it something ornamental in what Men utter before Women, which is lost or neglected in Conversations of Men

‘ Men only. Give me Leave to tell you, Sir, it ‘ would do you no great Harm if you your ſelf ‘ came a little more into our Company; it would ‘ certainly cure you of a certain poſitive and deter- ‘ mining Manner in which you talk ſometimes. In ‘ hopes of your Amendment

I am,

SIR,

Your gentle Reader.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

‘ YOUR profeſſed Regard to the fair Sex, may ‘ perhaps make them value your Admoniti- ‘ ons when they will not thoſe of other Men. I ‘ deſire you, Sir, to repeat ſome Lectures upon ‘ Subjects which you have now and then in a curſo- ‘ ry Manner only juſt touched. I would have a ‘ *Spectator* wholly writ upon good Breeding; ‘ and after you have aſſerted that Time and Place ‘ are to be very much conſidered in all our Actions, ‘ it will be proper to dwell upon Behaviour at ‘ Church. On *Sunday* laſt a grave and reverend ‘ Man preached at our Church: There was ſome- ‘ thing particular in his Accent, but without any ‘ Manner of Affectation. This Particularity a Set ‘ of Gigglers thought the moſt neceſſary thing to be ‘ taken Notice of in his whole Diſcourſe, and made ‘ it an Occaſion of Mirth during the whole Time of ‘ Sermon: You ſhould ſee one of them ready to ‘ burſt behind a Fan, another pointing to a Compa- ‘ nion in another Seat, and a fourth with an arch ‘ Compoſure, as if ſhe would if poſſible ſtifle her ‘ Laughter. There were many Gentlemen who ‘ looked at them ſtedfaſtly, but this they took for ‘ ogling and admiring them: There was one of ‘ the merry ones in particular, that found out but ‘ juſt then that ſhe had but five Fingers, for ſhe ‘ fell a reckoning the pretty Pieces of Ivory over ‘ and over again, to find her ſelf Employment and ‘ not laugh out. Would it not be expedient, Mr. ‘ SPECTATOR, that the Church-Warden ſhould ‘ hold up his Wand on theſe Occaſions, and keep ‘ the Decency of the Place as a Magiſtrate does ‘ the Peace in a Tumult elſewhere?

Mr. SPECTATOR,

‘ I Am a Woman's Man, and read with a very ‘ fine Lady your Paper wherein you fall upon ‘ us whom you envy: What do you think I did? ‘ you muſt know ſhe was dreſſing, I read the ‘ *Spectator* to her, and ſhe laughed at the Places ‘ where ſhe thought I was touched; I threw away ‘ your Moral, and taking up her Girdle cryed out,

Give me but what this Ribband bound,
Take all the reſt the World goes round.

She ſmiled, Sir, and ſaid you were a Pedant; ſo ſay of me what you pleaſe, read *Seneca*, and quote him againſt me if you think fit.

I am,

SIR,

Your humble Servant.

Never acted there before.

By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, this preſent Friday, being the 31ſt of Auguſt, will be re- VAN'd, a Comedy call'd, Love's a Jeſt. The Part of Railmore by Mr. Mills, Lovewell Mr. Elrington, Airy Mr. Bowman, Sir Toby Clowniſh Mr. Johnſon, Squire Ill-bred Mr. Bullock, Sir Tho. Gaymood Mr. Croſs, Sam. Gaymood Mr. Pack, Hot Mr. Norris, Humphry Doſdipole Mr. Burkhead, Frankly Mr. Bullock Jun. Lady Single Mrs. Porter, Francelia Mrs Bradſhaw, Chriſtina Miſs Willis, Kitty Mrs. Sherborn, Doll Hoyden Mrs. Willis. This being the laſt time of acting till Winter.

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This Day continues to be ſold by Retail the Library of Dr. Dillingham, formerly Maſter of Emanuel College Cambridge; being a curious Collection of Books in Greek, Latin and Engliſh, of the beſt Editions, and very fair; viz. Poli Synopſis, 10 Vol. Chart. Magni Stephani Theſaurus Gr. Ling. 4 Vol. Fasti Romanum, 3 Vol. Meiſenni in Geneſim, St. Juſtini Martyris, Paris Edit. Xenophon and Thucydidis, both printed by Stephens; Euſebius Paris Edit. with many others very valuable by Stephens, Plantin, Elzevir, &c. Several MSS. on Velum, and ſome good original Prints. The Sale is from 8 in the Morning to 8 in the Evening, and will continue this and the next Week at B. Curll's at the Dial and Bible against St. Dunſtan's Church in Fleetſtreet.

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